Canadian Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

Vol. 9, No. 23 | TORONTO, JUNE 7, 1944 | $2.00 Per Annum

Many Public Halls Unchecked

Skinner Wins NS Contest

Freeman Skinner of the Orpheus Theatre, Halifax, was awarded first prize for Nova Scotia in the Scrap Book Contest sponsored by the Canadian Motion Picture War Services Committee in connection with the recent Victory Loan. The win-

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H'w'd Production Into High Gear

What seems to be the highest production record ever was reached last week in Hollywood with 64 films in production at the cost of approximately $38,000,000. Last year's record was 46, the year before it was 39.

It is estimated that 30 story

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Selective Serv. Gets Unessential Rejectees

National Selective Service now has first call on all army rejectees who hold jobs in unessential industries. They will be sent to high priority work.

I. H. Allen, Mono, To Head Office

I. H. Allen, manager of the Montreal branch of Monogram Pictures, has been transferred to Toronto head office as assistant to Harry Kaufman, general manager. Much of his time will be occupied with the distribution of Esquire English and Russian product, recently acquired by Hanson.

Allen will be replaced by John Sherman, manager of the Toronto branch. The latter will be succeeded by Harold Kaye, Monogram Ontario salesman.

Hamilton Fire Throws Light On 16 MMovies and Bingo

The Moose Temple fire at Hamilton, Ontario on May 23, in which seven died and 40 were injured, may have the effect of inspiring civic and provincial legislation that would require all such halls to be licensed. The hall in which the fire and panic occurred was not even licensed, escaping such a requirement by being the headquarters of a non-commercial organization and being used for private affairs.

A "wide-open" investigation is being held.

A number of private and unlicensed halls in the district have been closed by the authorities

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"The Shining Future" Made for Canada

The other day Roly Young, Toronto Globe and Mail screen columnist, quoted an article about "The Shining Future" from a USA trade paper. The article gave the impression that the subject was made exclusively for use in the forthcoming USA Fifth Victory Loan. Roly offered the article "In view of all the bows taken locally . . ."

Don Henshaw, who was in Hollywood for the National War Finance Committee during the making of "The Shining Future," explains that the film "was made for Canada and Mr. Morgenthau thought it was so good he had Warners cut it to ten minutes for use in the U.S. bond campaign. They borrowed a slogan from Canada and have used it for three loan drives, now they have borrowed a motion picture. Looks to me as though Canada is out of the bush leagues and taking a turn at bat in the majors."

No doubt Roly will make the proper explanation to his readers.

Spencer Plans House In Amherst, N.S.

Spencer's Theatres Limited, which is headed by F. G. Spencer, St. John, N.B., is contemplating the construction of a new theatre in Amherst, Nova Scotia. The town, with a population of 9,000, has two Spencer houses now, the Strand and Capitol, both directed by Mrs. Frank Audas. Total seating is 1,088.

M. Schlesinger Dead

Morris S. Schlesinger, brother of Leon Schlesinger, passed away at Orange, N.J., recently.

C. Danson Passes Maritimes Exhib

Colin Danson, 63, well-known Maritimes exhibitor, died suddenly last week at Sussex, New Brunswick. He was born in England.

With his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Danson, he came to Springhill, N.S., when he was

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Biltmore Burgled

The Biltmore Theatre, Kingston, Ontario, was broken into and the office searched.

RKO Rentals Jump

RKO film rentals increased almost 45 per cent in 1943, according to the annual report of the company.

J. Arthur Rank and Spyros Skouras

J. Arthur Rank, leading figure of the British film industry, and Spyros Skouras, president of Twentieth Century-Fox, shown at the brilliant premiere of "The Song of Bernadette" at the New Gallery Theatre, London.

The Impostor is UNIVERSAL'S engrossing drama of the Free French, different in every way from films of that kind and, because of the coming invasion, extremely marketable. With Jean Gabin, Richard Whorf, Ellen Drew, Allyn Joselyn, Peter Van Eyck, Frank Morgan, Eddie Quillan, John Qualen, Dennis Moore and others. It's from EMPIRE-UNIVERSAL.

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Tina Thayer
Gerra Young

Girl From Monterey
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Jack LaRue
Veda Ann Borg

Men On Her Mind
Mary Beth Hughes
Ted North
Eddie Norris

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Hamilton Fire Throws Light

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since the fire. Not being subjected to inspection and the application of safety architecture, these halls did not have sufficient exits, etc. Only premises where public hall licenses have been issued are inspected.

"The Moose Temple was not on any list shown me," Fire Chief W. Murdock stated. "However, I understand that halls used for religious or educational purposes are exempted from the provisions covering public halls. They are supposed to notify the provincial authorities if they are holding events to which an admission fee is charged."

An official of the Motion Picture Censorship and Theatre Inspection department of Ontario said that most lodges and churches which have halls take out public licenses but that the Hamilton one hadn't. "As far as we know officially from our records this hall did not exist," he said.

Described as "the worst tragedy of its kind in 37 years" by Hamiltonians, the fire directed public attention to the need for a system of broad and close inspection on all places in which people gather in a crowd. It was thought that such measures would follow the Boston Cocoanut Grove fire in 1942 and the Knights of Columbus fire at St. John's, Newfoundland, in 1943.

The danger of serious tragedy through fire and panic is always present in many places in Canada. Throughout the Dominion church and lodge halls which have not met fire and safety regulations imposed on licensed halls operate every night for Bingo and other purposes.

The situation in Quebec has been protested against for a long time. There are many parish hall showings of 16 mm. entertainment films to which children are admitted in large numbers because of the ban against those under 16 in commercial theatres. The showing of motion pictures, more closely subjected to safety architecture and precautionary methods in commercial theatres, are unhampered by such in parish halls.

Strand, Amherst, NS, Re-opens After Fire

Strand Theatre, Amherst, Nova Scotia, which is handled by Mrs. Frank Audas, has reopened after two weeks of darkness. The house was closed because of damage caused by a roof fire. Firemen had to chop through the metal ceiling which protected the theatre. Mrs. Audas took advantage of the opportunity to do some renovating and changing of fixtures and drapes.

C. Danson Passes Maritimes Exhib

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about 18 years of age. He started early in the theatre business as manager and proprietor of the Springhill theatre. In 1928 he came to Sussex as operator in the Imperial theatre. In 1934, in partnership with Reginald March, Saint John, he opened the new Strand which he has successfully managed since.

Danson was active in every community effort, serving on the publicity committees of all Red Cross campaigns and victory loans. He was chairman of the Sixth Victory Loan for Sussex. He was generous with the loan of the theatre for every good cause and many organizations used the Strand for various projects.

A sports enthusiast, Danson did everything he could to further an interest in sport for Sussex. When the local skating rink burned down some years ago, he gave of his time, energy and money to establish a new open-air rink to keep the town hockey team in the Southern New Brunswick Hockey League.

Danson was well-known in Canadian show business and at the time of his death was the oldest licensed projectionist in the Maritimes. He was a member of the Knights of Pythias and Masonic Lodge.

Surviving are his wife, the former Frances Jones, Springhill, two sons and a daughter.

H'w'd Production Into High Gear

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properties are ready for production as soon as casts can be lined up.

Out of the 64 films now before the cameras, 22 are priced at more than a million each, the total amount being $26,000,000.

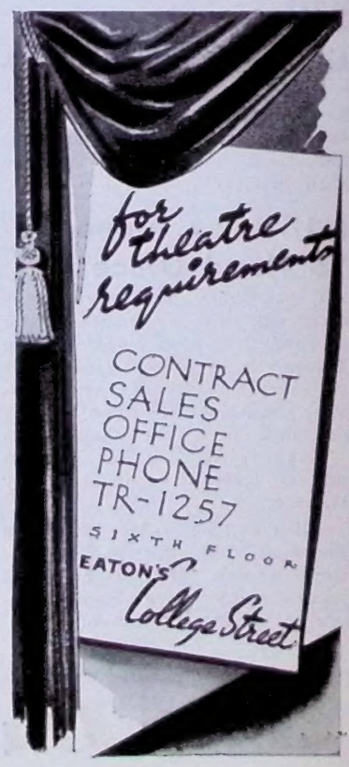
The majority of the larger studios have many properties in the backlogs but are still going full blast on production, desiring to make the most out of the manpower situation while it lasts. At Warner Brothers the reason given for increased production was that the studio wishes to build up a backlog of "A" product that can be adjusted and released to meet any change of public taste.

"I think it largely a coincidence, and the normal seasonal rush, that so much production is under way," stated B. G. DeSylva, Paramount executive producer.

The fine weather which makes it possible to go ahead with the Westerns is Universal's reason for the rush at that studio. Republic plans to continue in high gear and will increase its top-budget pictures from four this year to 12 next year. PRC will produce 12 films during the next two months.

Correction

Photo which appeared last week of Jack Miner and a man identified as Fred Graham of Kingsville was wrongly captioned. Wasn't Graham at all.



Film Weekly
Vol. 9, No. 23 June 7, 1944
HYE BOSSIN, Managing Editor
Address all communications—The Managing Editor, Canadian Film Weekly, 25 Dundas Square, Toronto, Canada.
Published by Film Publications of Canada Ltd., 25 Dundas Square, Toronto, Ont., Canada. Phone ADelaide 4317. Price 5 cents each or $2.00 per year.
Entered as Second Class Matter
Printed by Eveready Printers Limited, 75 Wellington Street West, Toronto, Ontario

THE PICK OF THE PICTURES

Canadian Film Weekly
The Voice of the Canadian Motion Picture Industry

REVIEWS INFORMATION RATINGS

Vol. 9, No. 23 REVIEWS FROM FILM DAILY, NEW YORK $2.00 Per Annum

To Film Nova Scotia Highland Games

The annual Highland Games of the Antigonish Highland Society, to be held in July in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, will be filmed by Vancouver Motion Pictures Limited for distribution by Twentieth Century-Fox.

Representatives of the Society conferred with Leon C. Shelly, head man of the Vancouver company, and A. J. Campbell, director of information for the provincial department.

Scoop Prods. New Documentary Setup

Scoop Productions, recently created by Robert Weil Velaise, former Loew's executive in Europe, to produce and distribute documentaries is negotiating USA and foreign distribution of its first film, "One Inch From Victory." Noted war correspondent Quentin Reynolds did the script and narration.

Thomas to Superior

Maurice Thomas is now with Superior Operating, Montreal.

Hal Wallis Signs With Paramount

Paramount will handle worldwide distribution of productions from Hal Wallis Productions, Inc. The former Warner Brothers producer has allied himself with Joseph H. Hazen and the first film will be Lillian Hellman's "The Searching Wind."

Capitol, St. Thomas' Huge Paper Haul

Capitol Theatre, St. Thomas, Ontario, took in 41,250 pounds of paper at a special show, the leading contributor winning a $5 prize. Afterwards Fire Chief Metrilla conducted a fire drill and emptied the theatre of 700 children in 43 seconds. This is an idea worth imitating at every such show.

'If You Splice Film'

That's the front page line on an interesting booklet describing the Automatic Film Splicer of the Bloomfield Tool Corporation, 35 Farrand Street, Bloomfield, New Jersey. They can't fill the present demand but you will find their improvements interesting.

'See Here, Pte. Hargrove'

with Robert Walker

M-G-M 101 Mins.

BEST-SELLER ABOUT ARMY LIFE REACHES SCREEN AS COMEDY ENTERTAINMENT OF GREAT POPULAR APPEAL.

A bold comedy treatment makes the screen version of the Marion Hargrove best-seller entertainment of popular stripe. It will matter little to audiences that exaggeration has been employed often as a means of bolstering the fun. The warm human approach to the story of a hair-brained young private's adventures in the service gives appeal to a lot of material that handled in any other manner would have been flat and familiar.

Underlining the comedy theme is a more serious one that has to do with the transformation of Hargrove into a fighting man fully aware of his responsibilities as a defender of America's cause in the battle against the forces of tyranny. Hargrove is a fledgling newspaper man when Uncle Sam beckons to him. Right from the start he gets acquainted with K.P. duty and doesn't become a stranger to it until the end of the film. All the experiences that befall him in the period of his training as a soldier are vastly amusing, even a bit touching at times. He reveals the stuff he is made of at the end when he chucks a nice soft berth as a public relations man for overseas duty.

Walker gets excellent assistance from his fellow players. Donna Reed co-operates beautifully with him in handling the romantic burden of the story. Keenan Wynn almost steals the show as a conniver who seeks to share in Hargrove's financial success. As Wynn's partner in playing our hero for a sucker we find George Offerman, Jr., who gives a swell performance. Robert Benchley adds to the comedy in a small bit as Miss Reed's pop. Others worthy of mention are Ray Collins, Chill Wills, Grant Mitchell and William "Bill" Phillips. Bob Crosby makes a brief appearance as a soldier singing a tune called "In My Arms."

Wesley Ruggles has directed satisfactorily.

CAST: Robert Walker, Donna Reed, Keenan Wynn, Robert Benchley, Ray Collins, Chill Wills, Bob Crosby, Marta Linden, Grant Mitchell, George Offerman, Jr., Edward Fielding, Donald Curtis, William "Bill" Phillips, Douglas Fowley.

DIRECTION, Good. PHOTOGRAPHY, Good.

'The Miracle of Morgan's Creek'

with Eddie Bracken, Betty Hutton

Paramount 99 Mins.

NEW STURGES COMEDY IS ACE ENTERTAINMENT; DIRECTION, WRITING TOPS; BRACKEN SURPRISES.

In "The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" Preston Sturges has delivered himself of another ace comedy. The production is filled with the sort of humor that registers solidly with adults. Human nature has not been dealt with such amusing results in a long, long time. Some of the situations in this film are positively excruciating, representing comedy at its very best.

What sets the film apart from the common breed of comedy entertainment is the pathos, the sense of pity and the drama that lie beneath the surface of the humor. There is a certain depth to the comedy and a feeling for people and things that one doesn't find in the average funny film. In times like these a comedy like "The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" should be nothing less than a smash hit.

A small town is the setting of Sturges' story. His principal characters are a dull-witted bank clerk and a lively young thing who works in a music store. Sturges ventures on mighty thin ice in telling what happens when the girl is married to a chance soldier while both are under the influence of alcohol. The marriage is never shown and the audience never sees the soldier. The whole plot hinges on the fact that the girl has no recollection of the soldier's name. Complications arise when the girl finds herself with child.

Sturges has obtained topnotch performances from his cast. Eddie Bracken turns in his best film job as the bank clerk. As the girl Betty Hutton plays a straight role surprisingly well. William Demarest is immense as Miss Hutton's pop. Fine, too, is the work of Diana Lynn. The film has a slew of minor roles played to perfection. Two of them are in the hands of Brian Donlevy (the governor) and Akim Tamiroff.

CAST: Eddie Bracken, Betty Hutton, Diana Lynn, William Demarest, Brian Donlevy, Akim Tamiroff, Porter Hall, Emory Parnell, Alan Bridge, Julius Tannen, Victor Potel, Almira Sessions, Esther Howard, J. Farrell MacDonald, Frank Moran, Connie Tompkins, Georgia Caine, Torben Meyer, George Melford, Jimmy Conlin, Harry Rosenthal.

DIRECTION, Aces. PHOTOGRAPHY, Good.

'Trocadero'

with Rosemary Lane, Johnny Downs

Republic 74 Mins.

PLENTY OF MUSICAL NUMBERS MAKES THIS ONE FAIR ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE FAMILY TRADE.

Thanks to an abundance of musical numbers and a story, which, while pretty commonplace, is crowded with human interest, "Trocadero" will serve its purpose very nicely on dual bills in the neighborhood houses, where the family trade will go for it without too much complaint.

As a magnet for the young people the picture offers 10 popular tunes for which the accompaniments are provided by four name orchestras, those of Bob Chester, Matty Malneck, Gus Arnheim and Eddie LeBaron. Also very much of an attraction are Wingy Mannone, the Radio Rogues, the Stardusters, Ida James, Patricia Kay, Betty Bradley and Jane Ellison.

Of secondary importance is the story and the players in it. The yarn has to do with the fortunes of a night club called the Trocadero. It traces the efforts of Ralph Morgan to keep it going after the death of its owner, a buddy, and its emergence, as a gathering place of the swankiest gadabouts. Rosemary Lane and Johnny Downs, children of the original owner, play a big part in making the joint what it is. The romantic burden is borne by Miss Lane and the late Dick Purcell, a band leader who has a lot to do with making a success of the Trocadero.

Miss Lane, handicapped by some bad costuming, performs acceptably as singer and actress. Downs, Morgan and Purcell struggle hard with the material at their disposal.

Walter Colmes produced in routine manner, while William Nigh supplied fast direction. Charles F. Chaplin and Garret Holmes collaborated on the story from which Allen Gale did the screenplay.

CAST: Rosemary Lane, Johnny Downs, Ralph Morgan, Dick Purcell, Sheldon Leonard, Cliff Nazarro, Marjorie Manners, Erskine Johnson, Dave Fleischer, Emmett Vogan, Charles Calvert, Dewey Robinson, Ruth Hilliard, Eddie Bartell, Bob Chester and orchestra, Matty Malneck and orchestra, Gus Anheim and orchestra, Eddie LeBaron and orchestra, Wingy Mannone, Radio Rogues, Stardusters, Ida James, Patricia Kay, Betty Bradley, Jane Ellison.

DIRECTION, Okay. PHOTOGRAPHY, Okay.

Flashbacks

Maurice Coste Then and Now

How he looked in the golden days of the living theatre, "trodding" the boards of the world and leaving laughter and quickened heartbeats as his echo. Ah, youth!

Vanity vanishes with the growing years. No man fancies his masculine beauty who permits the reproduction of his passport photo. This is Coste five years ago.

PEOPLE, as newspapers and movies know, are mainly interested in people. Interesting people, that is. Worthy of nomination on anybody's select list is an engrossing fellow named Maurice Coste, truly a citizen of the world; a man whose story makes Marco Polo and Chris Columbus seem like homebodies. Coste got around more of this ungirdled globe than either of those wanderers and tells a more interesting story than both of them together. What saves the historic faces of Marc and Chris is that they happened to have gotten there first. And that was only because they were born first.

Truth to tell, we were more anxious to hear Coste's yarns than he was to tell them. And if we could write them as well as he can tell them, we wouldn't be working here.

Today Maurice Coste, seventy-four years old and back in show business as a matter of personal choice, is manager of the Community, Toronto, where he greets the patrons with the same warm-hearted smile that made him many friends in many places for many years. Those patrons who come in to borrow some canned adventure are settling cheaply. The big man they passed on their way in is Mr. Adventure himself.

Maurice Coste, a man of marked charm and obvious wordliness, has a vast appetite for the varied work of the world—an appetite in which show business is the main course. There isn't much that he can't do or hasn't done. He has sailed on the show-boat named Theatre as it shifted its course again and again in the treacherous waters of public taste, meanwhile fishing deeply in the river of life. Good and interesting fishing it was. He has caught them big and small—and tossed many back.

Let's leave him temporarily at the Community while we look back along that river.

COSTE was born in the shadows of the Pyramids. It was a great day in the history of Egypt and the world, that sixteenth of May, 1870. All Egypt was celebrating the opening of the Suez Canal, a while later to become the life-line of the British Empire. That joint birthday was less of a coincidence than you might think. Had it not been for the storied ditch, Coste would have been born elsewhere.

At the American Consulate in Port Said the excitement was even greater, for it was under the American flag that Maurice Rene Coste was born. His father was Napoleon Coste, acting American Consul, who, though a British subject, was one of the chief engineers of the canal. The elder Coste, speaking other languages than English, was pressed into temporary service as Consul. The mother of the infant Maurice was a direct descendant of General Ribidoux, chief of staff to Lafayette during the revolution that founded our boundaries.

The names connected with this story have in themselves an historic appeal. The Empress Eugenie, for instance, who was the wife of Napoleon III, the last king of France. She was on board the Aigle, the ship used to officially open the canal, which was piloted by Napoleon Coste.

In honor of the birth of a son to the acting American Consul, the Khedive of Egypt, in a special ceremony, declared the boy a Pasha. With the decoration came a parchment signed by the Khedive and the Sultan of Turkey, certifying that Maurice Rene Coste was a prince of the Moslem world.

How is that for a beginning to a life of adventure?

MAURICE COSTE was in on the two most exciting events at the turn of the century and his participation in both, one after the other, is proof that he is a man who likes to take a chance and isn't scared by extreme changes. He hopped from the cold of the Klondyke gold rush to the heat of the Boer War—from the near-Arctic to Africa. That was in 1899.

He had come to the Klondyke as a doctor with a special permit to practice medicine in the territory, it having been granted because there was no healer there, and set up an office in Dawson City. Coste recalls an operation he performed on the daughter of an Indian chief. Two dancehall girls were pressed into service, the girl was saved and Coste was piled up with gifts from Indians. One of the dancehall girls married a Baptist minister and the other a gambler. Each Christmas they write to the Klondyke doctor. They are very old today.

Maurice took the medical course at McGill, serving at Victoria Hospital, Montreal, but his desire for adventure, part of his yet unsatisfied love for the theatre, caused him to join the gold rush before he graduated. His early education was at Upper Canada College, Toronto.

After three years in the Klondyke he went off to the Boer War for two years of service. When, at the end of the Boer War, General Cronje surrendered at the Moder River, Captain Coste had charge of Cronje's bodyguard. Cronje was imprisoned on the Island of St. Helena. Having as a boy retraced the steps of Moses on the desert, Coste many times sat on the same bench as Napoleon and looked at the same sea.

How did the Coste family and member Maurice get to Canada?

His father had run away to sea and had been shipwrecked twice, the last time in Canada at the mouth of the Detroit River. He liked the district and thought about it after he had returned to France and left for Egypt. Napoleon Coste returned to Essex County to settle down, bringing his family from Egypt. He built a thirty-six room mansion and became prominent in county politics. A distinguished and cultured gentleman, he won the popular appreciation of his neighbors. His son Louis became a prominent engineer, serving as head of Public Works for Ottawa, and later engineered the work on the Montreal Harbor. Son Eugene was chief geologist for the Dominion government.

Maurice, who was eight years old when his father returned to Canada, had been here at the age of four with an uncle and an aunt.

THE uncle and aunt were of the stage and introduced Maurice to it in the role of Little Willie in "East Lynne" in 1874. So the stage was his first love and he could never forget it.

In time he won distinction as an actor and director. He played a leading role with George M. Cohan in "Yankee Doodle Dandy," sharing his dressing room. After that he stage-managed and appeared with different companies. He was with the Metropolitan Opera Company as a stage manager and baritone singer and worked in many operas with such legendary stars as Nellie Melba and Emma Calve.

It is forty-six years since he first came to Toronto to join the Cummings Stock Company at the vanished Princess Theatre. He wasn't sure he would get the job. The company was about to do Cyrano de Bergerac and no actor could make the duel seem realistic. Coste turned out to be an expert swordsman so they hired him. He stayed several seasons.

Coste circled the world three times as a variety single getting $1500 a week. He didn't intend to but he always wound up broke because he spent lavishly and supported a Jap valet. At the end of each trip he borrowed money from Albee, who sent him back over the route to protect his investment. Albee called him "the only man in the world who could do his act in four languages."

He is a man who always happens to be on the ground when things break. He was sitting with Eddie Foy in the latter's dressing room at the Iroquois Theatre when the tragic fire and panic broke out that cost the lives of forty-seven persons.

MAURICE COSTE got into movies in the early days. He travelled with his own show, exhibiting "The Great Train Robbery" and a hand-colored Pathe reel called "Cinderella." One of his favorite attractions

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UA's 'It Happened Tomorrow' A Laugh-Loaded Farce

STILL novel and entertaining to a high degree is the story behind what is an excellent comedy from United Artists—that of a man who sees tomorrow's newspapers and acts accordingly. The film is called "It Happened Tomorrow" and the foresighted fellow is Dick Powell whose preview prancing is shared by Linda Darnell and Jack Oakie.

Powell is a newspaperman and Darnell and Oakie are a mind-reading act.

Edgar Kennedy, Edward Brophy and Sig Ruman are among those directed expertly by Rene Clair.

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Summer Urge

Have you ever stood amid the din, heat and glare of the early afternoon and found yourself with an almost painful longing to be close to some favorite foliage or flower in its natural state?

I had that urge but wasn't sure which of the earth's loveliest children I preferred until a boy with a sprig of lilac in one hand strolled by. That was it—lilacs! But lilacs downtown in the warm bleakness of these many-eyed brick-and-steel giants? Never.

So I turned sadly to business and called on Tom Daley in the Imperial Theatre. Tom is a sentimental fellow with an understanding heart. He knows that whims and nonsense are things apart, since the first springs from the heart and the other from the head.

I told him my lilac trouble. He smiled sympathetically and said "Come with me." I followed him into the most private room of the men's lounge. He peered through the iron grill of a window. "Look," he said.

There stood the most graceful and shapely lilac tree I had ever seen. Not a bush but a tree perhaps thirty feet high.

It did not droop in the feminine fashion of lilac bushes but stood proudly. Its split trunk reached up like a pair of hands holding a bouquet. It would be a boon to the eye of the most discriminating lover of beauty.

Then I looked at its surroundings. The lilac tree was trapped on every side by walls higher than itself. On one side it was opposed by the barred windows of the main street jewelry store in whose back yard it was jailed. It seemed locked in a brick cell with only a natural skylight through which it was fed. There was trash on the roofs above and the chimneys stood like guards. Smudgy smoke performed an ugly, challenging dance around it.

But the lilac tree stood with dignity and seeming disdain, a prisoner of the never-ending war between man and nature. In solitary confinement, with not even the comparative liberty enjoyed by its city brothers in their refined block-long chain gangs.

Once, no doubt, it shared this piece of earth with neighbors who loved it and catered to its every need. Children laughed and played under it, lovers sang and old folks rested. Now its neighbors were tradesmen, there for profit. Such people leave their laughter at home and return to it in the evening.

These must be lonely days for the old lilac tree.

* * *

Reel Lifelines

Art Cauley, manager of the Capitol, Peterboro, is back on the job after a spell in the hospital. . . Max Chic, of Artkino Pictures, is in the hospital. . . Leading Stoker Jack Willard, formerly of the staff of the Capitol, New Toronto, was on the Valleyfield when it went down. He dropped around to chat with the boys the other day. . . Wrote Roly Young about the fact that the Associated British Newsreel would be discontinued shortly: "The story of how this English newsreel was squeezed out of Canada is an intriguing little saga." I asked Harry Kaufman why his company was dropping the reel and he said: "It isn't making money, that's all. It's as simple as that." Could there be a dark secret here? . . . Also on the sick list is Dewey Bloom. . . . Jackson Barker, Famous Players artist, is doing a sprightly column in Jimmy Nairn's "What's New." Artists usually make so many errors in spelling that a critic once defended them with "Why should they be able to spell? Can writers draw?" Fortunately Jim's eagle eye operates in Jackson's behalf.

"TEST FILM, 10,000 cycles 35 mm., with easy instructions, so that you can focus your Sound Lens in absolute precision and secure clear sound and the Maximum from your sound System. Just what many theatre owners have longed for! Bargain $6.60."

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Skinner Wins NS Contest

(Continued from Page 1)

ning book has been forwarded to the headquarters of the Committee to be entered against the winners of the other provinces for the Dominion prize.

"Running a close second to Freeman Skinner of the Orpheus for the amount of personal effort contributed was Hugh E. Best of the Capitol Theatre, Shelburne," reports co-chairman R. S. Roddick. "Shelburne is not a large city by any standard of measurement, but the evidence in Hugh's scrap book would do credit to any man in any community. Third place in the Nova Scotia contest was given to Ernie Hatfield of the Capitol Theatre, Yarmouth. Ernie is another one of those community spirits that practically takes over the town when a drive or campaign is organized for any worthy cause. . . The judges were very strong in their praise of the evidence of Bob Harvey's efforts. . . Frankly, the evidence of community spirit was tremendous, and the selection of winners was very difficult."

Judges for the Nova Scotia contest were the Hon. Harold Connelly, Provincial minister of publicity and industry; Gerald Redmond, Provincial chairman of the War Finance Public Relations Committee, and R. J. Rankin, editor of the Herald and Mail, Halifax.

Exhibitors and managers who acted in an official capacity submitted their scrap books but asked that they not be entered in the judging. The co-chairman will retain some of the books and pass on the ideas in them when the next drive comes along.

30 Million Weekly in British Movie Houses

Attendance in British movie houses is up to 30,000,000 per week, it is estimated. The figure on January 1st of this year was set conservatively at 24,000,000 but it was raised by the thousands of American troops in Britain.

20th Century-Fox Has Nine to Go

Releases for the first five months of the 1944-45 season by 20th-Fox in the USA are "Wing and a Prayer," "Take It or Leave It," "Sweet and Lowdown," "Greenwich Village," "Irish Eyes Are Smiling," "In the Meantime, Darling," "Laura," "Something for the Boys," "Thunderhead (Son of Flicka)" and "Sunday Dinner for a Soldier."

Alta. Revises Booth Rules

The Alberta Gazette, published by authority of the Provincial Government, makes public the recently-revised amendments to the regulations governing the number of projectionists required in different classes of theatres in that province.

The following clauses were substituted for former ones:

69 — (1) In any theatre or place of amusement in the Cities of Edmonton, Calgary, Medicine Hat and Lethbridge, where motion pictures are exhibited and where there is more than one motion picture machine used, there shall be on duty at all times during public performances two licensed projectionists as follows:

(a) Where the seating capacity exceeds 500 there shall be employed two projectionists holding first class licenses; and

(b) Where the seating capacity does not exceed 500, one projectionist shall be employed who is the holder of at least a first class projectionist's license, and an assistant who is the holder of at least a third class projectionist license.

(2) In any theatre or place of amusement situated elsewhere in the Province where motion pictures are exhibited and where there is more than one motion picture machine used, there shall be on duty at all times during public performances one licensed projectionist who is at least the holder of a third class projectionist license.

Provided, however, that the Chief Inspector of Theatres may, by notice in writing prohibit operation unless there are two licensed projectionists in the projection room in the case of any theatre or place of amusement where the Chief Inspector of Theatres is satisfied that otherwise the safety of the public may be endangered.

Any person aggrieved by any decision made by the Chief Inspector of Theatres under this subsection, may appeal to the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

Warners '43-44 Total To Be 19 Features

Exclusive of reissues, Warner Brothers will release a total of 19 features during the current season. Early announcements gave the impression that there would be from 20 to 30.

Features will be released at the rate of one a month in the USA and the Canadian schedule will probably catch up before the season ends. Still to come are "Mark Twain," "Make Your Own Bed," "Mask for Dimitrios" and "Mr. Skeffington."

Van Campen Heilner, editor, author and director, shown at left above, in a huddle with D. J. Taylor, Ontario's Deputy Minister of Games and Fisheries, on a projected series of color shorts on Canadian subjects to be made here by Warner Brothers.

Nelson Quints' Guest

Jack Nelson, manager of the Capitol, North Bay, was one of the guests at the tenth birthday party of the Dionne Quintuplets.

Danse is Manager

Charlie Danse, assistant manager, has become manager of the Amherst, Montreal, succeeding the late Rene Daigneault.

A scene from "Address Unknown," dramatic new Columbia hit, starring Academy Award winner Paul Lukas.

Flashbacks

(Continued from Page 4)

was a film of the electrocution of the assassin of President McKinley, which turned out to be a staged film. He remembers the cameraphone, early talking films using records. The films had parts clipped out through disrepair. Laugh lines came during tragic scenes and vice versa.

He was an early exhibitor, having owned a number of theatres in the Midwest. Coste lectured with his films and this was quite an attraction. "The theatre is packed at every performance," said the Wichita, Kansas, newspaper. "The Yale's big attraction is the lecturing of the pictures by Coste. He is a forceful speaker, knows his subjects and has a remarkable flow of language. When it comes to education and amusement Mr. Coste's lecture are a revelation."

A director for the old Selig Diamond S company in Chicago, he moved to the Pacific Coast with it. There he was injured and gave up production for exhibition. He returned to theatre production and was in Oklahoma City for some years. From there, eight years ago, he came back to Canada.

LET'S go back to Maurice Coste at the Community.

You would think that he would be retired now. Well, he was. That was six years ago. But he is too alive for that. Men were needed because of the war shortage. Two years ago he decided it was time for more fun. He didn't have to come back. He has investments in Sarnia and is a large shareholder in the family enterprise, the Union Gas Company of Ontario. But you can't keep a good man down or an active man immobilized. During his retirement he became correspondent for the Sarnia Observer, sitting in on a press conference with President Roosevelt as part of his work.

"I've had a lot of fun in life," he says, "and I hope when my time comes that I'll shuffle off this mortal coil gracefully." The secret of self-satisfaction, he says, is to make no enemies. That's his credo.

He made one request in connection with this story. "Please make it conservative," he asked. When you get these kind of facts from old clippings and from the personal remarks of a man with appreciation of the dramatic and excellent expression, you don't have to go in for literary theatrics.

So it's a conservative story—compared with the real story of a gifted and unusual man. The real story of Maurice Rene Coste would take several volumes.

Universal's 'Follow the Boys' Is All-Star Money-Loaded Summer Film Fare

AN endless parade of first-rate film talent entertaining liberally against sumptuous and varied backgrounds is the case in Universal's tribute to the war effort of the industry, "Follow the Boys."

Everyone's particular favorite is on hand—George Raft, Vera Zorina, Charles Butterworth, Martha O'Driscoll, Jeanette MacDonald, Orson Welles, Marlene Dietrich, Dinah Shore, Donald O'Connor, Sophie Tucker, W. C. Fields, Andrews Sisters and many more. They are supported by leading orchestras.

There's a light story running through the film, which is vastly amusing right through.